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Ban lifted on use of wells in Animas River floodplain

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By [Olivier Uytendaele](#) / Journal Staff Writer

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State and federal officials today lifted the precaution against using water from domestic wells in the Animas River floodplain, but left in place restrictions on drawing water directly from the river, the New Mexico Department of Health announced.

Water samples collected by the New Mexico Environment Department showed no evidence that domestic well water is at risk of contamination from 3 million gallons of mine waste that spilled into the Animas River on Aug. 5 from the Gold King Mine near Silverton, Colo., the DOH said in a written statement.

The restriction was lifted by agreement of both state agencies and the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

Other restrictions remain in effect. They include:

Do not draw water from the Animas River or canals fed by the river.

Do not water livestock from river water.

Do not eat fish caught in the Animas River.

Get potable water from water stations as needed.

For more information about the Gold King Mine spill, visit www.NMEDRiverWaterSafety.org or call the EPA hotline at (844) 607-9700.

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